

MASSACHUSETTS FIRES IN 1997

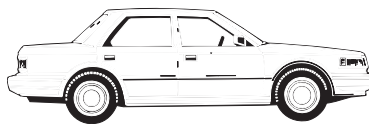
28,249 Fires - Up 1% From 1996

65 Civilian Deaths
654 Civilian Injuries
991 Fire Service Injuries
\$123 Million in Property Damage
4,131 Reported Arsons



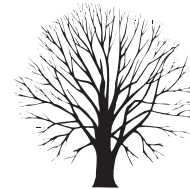
Structure Fires

11,452 Fires - Down 1%
56 Civilian Deaths
556 Civilian Injuries
905 Fire Service Injuries
\$103 Million
1,020 Arsons Reported



Motor Vehicle Fires

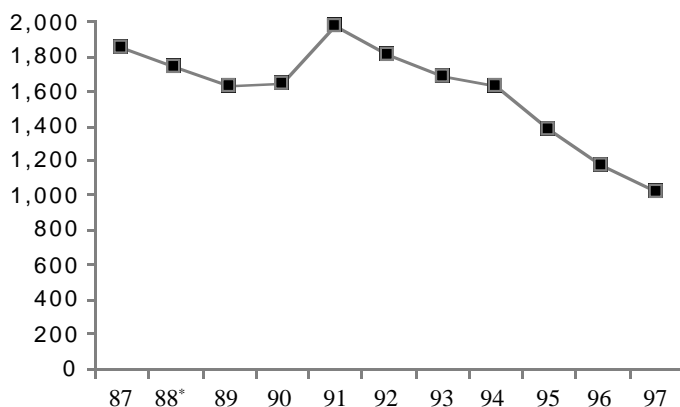
6,096 Fires - Down 13%
6 Civilian Deaths
34 Civilian Injuries
29 Fire Service Injuries
\$17 Million in Property Damage
979 Arsons Reported



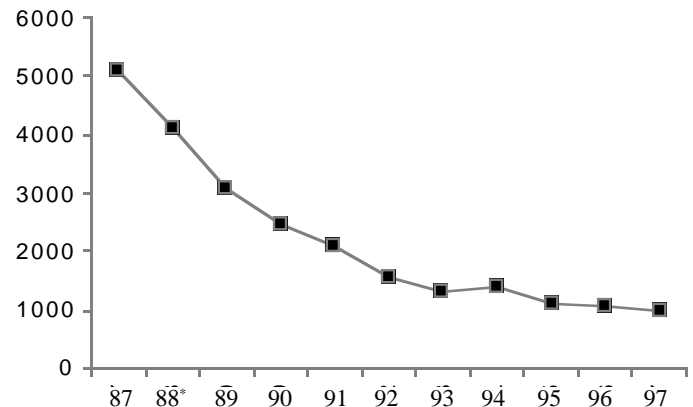
Other Fires

10,701 Fires - Up 13%
3 Civilian Deaths
64 Civilian injuries
57 Fire Service Injuries
\$3.1 Million
2,132 Arsons Reported

Structure Arson by Year



Motor Vehicle Arson by Year



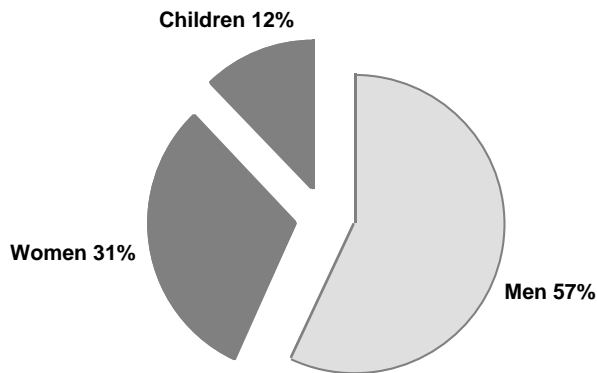
Structure arson fell 13% and motor vehicle arson fell 10% from 1996 to 1997. Since 1986, motor vehicle arson has fallen 82%. Since the Burned Motor Vehicle Reporting Law took effect in 1987, owners of burned vehicles must personally file a report at the fire station before they can collect on their fire insurance. Vehicle arson began dropping at that time.

For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the ignition factor is listed as incendiary or suspicious.

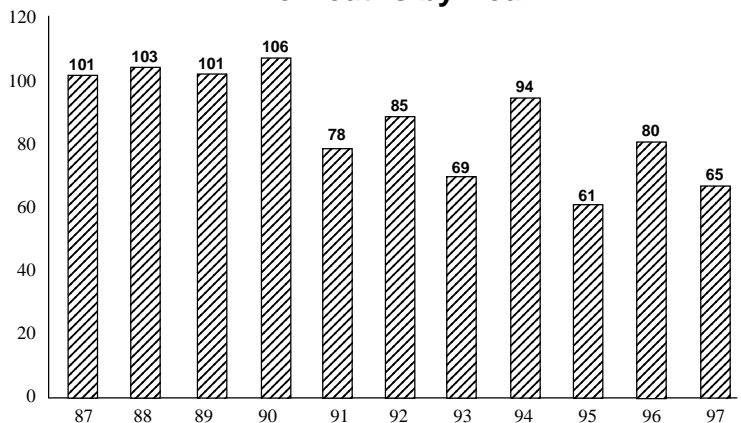
* Due to computer problems, no data is available for 1988. An estimate was made by averaging data from 1987 and 1989.

MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DEATHS IN 1997

Civilian Fire Deaths

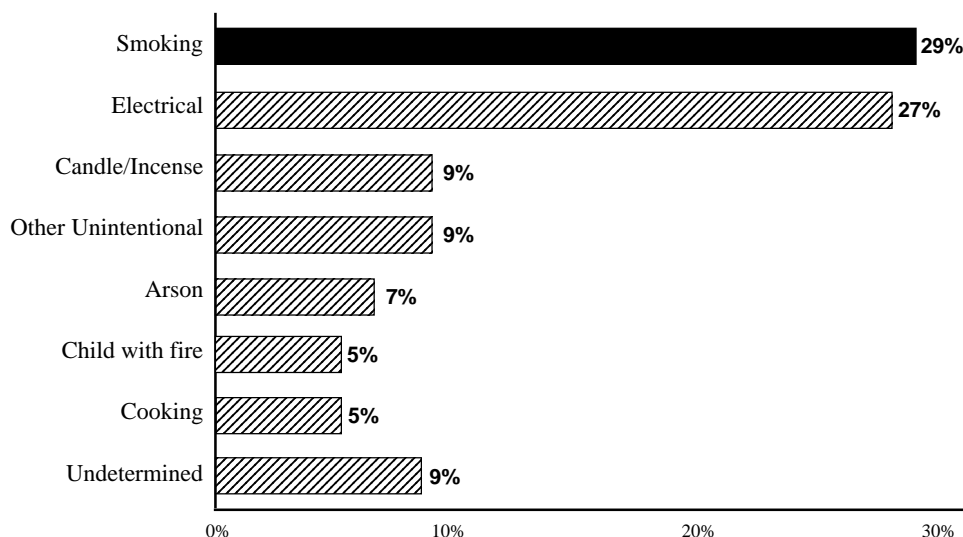


Fire Deaths by Year



- 65 civilians - 37 men, 20 women and 8 children - died from fires in 1997.
- Twelve percent (12%) of fire deaths were children under 18 years of age. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of fire victims were adults between the ages of 18 and 65. Thirty-one percent (31%) of fire victims were elderly.
- Civilian fire deaths fell 19% from 80 in 1996 and were at their lowest since 1995.
- 85% of the civilian fire victims died in the so-called *safety* of their homes.
- Over half of the fire deaths in one- and two-family homes occurred in homes with no working smoke detectors. Either no detectors were installed or the detectors did not operate.
- Careless smoking caused 29% of the structure fire deaths.

Causes of Fire Deaths



Test your smoke detector and plan your escape!
Fire doesn't wait!

Department of Fire Services Office of the State Fire Marshal
P.O. Box 1025 • State Road • Stow, MA 01775